

Because of the scarcity of beach-washed specimens, and the small size of the colony on Figure of Eight Island it had been assumed that the short-tailed shearwater had only recently colonised the Archipelago of the Recherche. However the large colony on Ben Island indicates that they have been breeding here for a considerable time.

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Flock Pigeon Observations — During April, 1985, we stayed at Anna Plains Station (121° 30' East, 19° 14' South) for several days.

There are two hot artesian bores on the station property. One follows the usual bore drain pattern and eventually disappears into the sandy soil. The other, however, has formed and maintains a swampy area of about 200 x 200 m. There is also a considerable amount of shallow open water in the centre of this marsh. This bore water wetland attracts an unusual variety of bird species in an otherwise quite dry pindan woodland.

On the morning of 13 April 1985 we observed two pigeons flying in. While circling overhead we clearly identified them as Flock Pigeons. Headmarkings and size were unmistakable. Subsequently they dropped down into the middle of the open water, sat or floated on it, drank twice and rose again immediately after. This manner of drinking appeared to be very unusual.

Three days later, while crossing Roebuck Plains, just east of Broome, adjacent to a mangal belt, we also recorded a single bird flying past us.

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Bridled Tern breeding on the Western Australian mainland — Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*) is a circumequatorial species which has increased its breeding range southwards in Western Australia this century (Serventy *et al.* 1971. *Handbook of Australian Sea-birds*). The only known breeding locations are continental islands.

On 1-3 January 1985 at Knobby Head (34°15'S, 115°01'E) near Cape Hamelin, four nests with single eggs were located in fissures in granite or in holes in overlying limestone. On 25 January 1986, two nests each had one egg; one nest was in a limestone nodule on granite, the second was in a horizontal fissure between limestone and granite. Adult birds which were incubating the eggs continued to fly around or perch on nearby rocks after being disturbed. In January 1986 at least 100 birds were flying around the nearby Honeycomb Rocks and Scotsman Rock. Similar